
PREFACE

This *festschrift* for Francis Rose honours a distinguished scholar of maritime and commercial law. As he enters retirement and we look back on his multifarious activities in these fields, spanning a period that is longer than he might wish us to mention, what do we find?

For one thing, the authorship of many scholarly works, the enumeration of which would greatly lengthen a book that is already long, but of which we must mention definitive accounts of salvage, general average, marine insurance, admiralty claims, carriage of goods by sea and overseas sales; and, back on dry land, thoughtful studies of doctrinal issues in commercial law and the law of obligations. His interests are broad, his understanding deep, his analysis strong, his writing concise and clear. To discover why English maritime and commercial lawyers are so well regarded around the world, one could do no better than spend some profitable hours – or weeks – reading Francis’s backlist.

Distinguished though they are, however, these productions do not give the full measure of Francis’s contribution, nor do they completely explain why he is held in such high esteem by his colleagues. For this, one must also take note of the care, concern and thoughtfulness with which he has pushed his subjects forward through his activities as an assiduous organiser of scholarly happenings and as a truly great editor of books and journals. Particular mention must be made here of his work over many years for the British Maritime Law Association and for the Society of Legal Scholars, as its first Subjects Sections Secretary and as convener of its Restitution Section; of the many workshops on unjust enrichment (and other matters) that he organised with Peter Birks, during a period on which many legal scholars now look back as a golden age of intellectual excitement and productivity; and of his work as editor of the *Lloyd’s Maritime and Commercial Law Quarterly* (eagerly awaited bedside reading for every aficionado), founding editor of the *Company, Financial and Insolvency Law Review* (now evolved into the *Journal of Corporate Law Studies*) and founding editor of the *Restitution Law Review* (which built the subject for 25 years and changed the landscape of English private law in the process).

Gathering together the contributions to this book, we heard many stories of the interest that Francis showed in recognising and cultivating talent in young colleagues, of the imagination with which he commissioned new pieces of writing, matching subjects to authors with a marvellous understanding of who could best do what, and of the kindness, patience and enthusiasm with which he encouraged, enticed and cajoled his colleagues to bring out the best in them. This kind of work is not much done in the public eye, nor is it work for which plaudits are handed out nearly enough in the modern world of legal academia. But it is work that matters and it is work that wins you the admiration, affection and gratitude of your peers. This collection shows that. Thank you, Francis, on behalf of all the contributors to this volume, and of maritime and commercial lawyers everywhere.

Charles Mitchell
Stephen Watterson